

Fall, 2001

Dear Fellow Iowans,

The safety and well-being of our children is of primary importance to us all. This can only happen when the adults in their lives work together to surround them with a caring, peace-filled, and supportive environment. Crucial to this work is the collaboration among families, schools, and communities to develop and model standards for everyday living that reflect expectations for high levels of achievement and performance, sound ethical and moral judgment, a respect and concern for oneself and others, and the exercise of the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society. When adults set the standards, our children will follow and thrive socially, emotionally, intellectually, and behaviorally.

This *Safe Schools Leadership Handbook* is a contribution to this important mission that puts forth the most current and proven effective practices available for the development of those assets or protective factors in our young people which offset conditions that put them at risk, the prevention of violence and other problem behaviors, early and intensive interventions should problems arise, and the management of crises when the unthinkable occurs. The Handbook is based on the premise that prevention and crisis management are linked and must take place in concert in order to ensure that our children are safe.

Although there has been no serious incidence of violence in Iowa schools over the last decade, we must not become complacent. May all Iowans view themselves as leaders and take to heart the importance of keeping our schools and communities safe. May this Handbook serve as a valuable resource in that important responsibility.

Sincerely,

Ted Stilwill, Director